

A fellow co-worker of mine got the bug recently to build an AK. He assembled one of the popular AMD65 kits. He did the simpler screw build, using an OOW receiver. Being young, energetic, and single - he had some fun testing his new toy in the New Mexico desert. What follows is a quote from his description of his AK tests.

quote:

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Sand, a guns worst enemy...or is it

Ok, why may you ask is the AK so popular in other countries. It's not accurate, it's made with sloppy tolerances and is a design that can be put together with a hand drill and a file. Well it's popular because its reliable as hell. Here are some pictures and vids from this weekend. I decided to do a torture test on the AK. We hear about how the M16 has such a hard time in sand environments. I guess they jam a lot if you get any kind of sand in them so I decided to see how the AK does with sand. Now with the M16, this is small particles of sand that works it way in from the outside from crawling around a such. I had been getting the AK dusty while we were shooting, usually by laying it down on the sand, and never had a problem. So, I wanted to take it a step further and see how it does with sand inside. Well, it does awesome. With about 2-3 handfuls of sand INSIDE the gun, it functions perfectly. This is inside the gun were the bolt rides, the trigger mechanism is and where pretty much everything is in the AK. Some even worked its way into the gas system. With about 4 or 5 handfuls, almost completely filled, the bolt would lock back every shot so you had to knock it forward. You can see that in the video. Other than that, it didn't really jam up so it wouldn't shoot. The gun hangs up a little normally so it wasn't a surprise sand made it worse. With a little work, grind a few things down to give it more tolerance, I think it would work perfectly. In my case, the bolt hits the hammer a little more than it needs so pushes the bolt carrier up more than it needs to. I just have to grind it down and it will be fixed. It isn't a problem unless you completely full the thing with sand though. LOL Anyway, if you are ever in a position where your receiver fills with sand and you can't shake it out, your probably already dead or just too stupid to know better. It takes about 1 second and as you can see in the video I did it quickly w/o a problem. Oh yea, after cleaning it all out, there wasn't any damage to the gun. It didn't even scrape the spay paint off.

Anyway, here are the pics and videos.

The point of all of this, AK's do great in sandy environments. I'll have to try Artic next, well not in New Mexico. I hear the M14 is the best gun for artic conditions.

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[The videos 2 and 3] ... go together. I only had a few rounds in the gun incase it went crazy on my. IE blew up or went full auto.

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First, a few pics of his AK in the sand:









These videos are all ~3.2 Mbytes.  
I was able to see them by using Opera and saving them to my hard disk.  
His first video:  
[video 1](#)

These two go together. I did not know how to splice them together:  
[video 2](#)  
[video 3](#)